

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Nonwoven fabric having a basis weight of 30 to 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>, a thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm, and a tear strength of 0.1 to 3 N, and manufactured from fibers having a length of 2 to 10 mm and a fineness of 1 to 100 denier by air-laying said fibers to form a web and thermally bonding said fibers at the intersections thereof.
2. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, wherein said thermal bonding is thermal bonding of thermally fusible fibers or thermally fusible powder.
3. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, which is embossed in a continuous or discontinuous pattern.
4. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 3, wherein said fibers are melted and cut in the thickness direction of said nonwoven fabric by the action of embossing so that depressions of continuous or discontinuous pattern are formed on said nonwoven fabric.
5. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 1, which has tearability by hand and is sponge-like.
6. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 5, which is used for cleaning a human body or an object.
7. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 6, wherein said fibers have a fineness of 3 to 65 denier, and which is used for cleaning a kitchen including kitchenware and kitchen equipment.
8. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 6, wherein said fibers have a fineness of 3 to 10 denier, and which is used for cleaning a human body.
9. Nonwoven fabric according to claim 6, wherein said fibers have a fineness of 3 to 65 denier, and which is used for cleaning a car body.

10. Air-laid nonwoven fabric comprising fibers having a length of 2 to 10 mm and fineness of 1 to 100 denier, and having a basis weight of 30 to 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>, a thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm, and a tear strength of 0.1 to 3 N.